Claims

1.-3.   (canceled)

4.   (new) A method for relaying Internet Protocol (IP) packets to a control component assigned to a network node in a communication network, the communication network having a plurality of network nodes and switching IP packets, the method comprising:

receiving an in-band IP signalling packet at an interface of the network node;

identifying the packet based on a protocol field of a header in the packet;

inserting a value assigned to the receiving interface into a field of the header or an IP header in the packet, the value different than another value assigned to a non-receiving interface of the network node; and

routing the modified packet to the control component.

5.   (new) The method according to claim 4, wherein prior to routing the modified packet, the packet is identified as an RSVP type packet and the value of a DSCP field in the header of the packet is modified as a function of the receiving interface.

6.   (new) The method according to claim 5, wherein the DSCP field contains the value assigned to the receiving interface.